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| 09/387,513 | 09/01/1999 | KIYOSHI TOYODA | P18445.P04 | 2687 |

7055 7590 12/03/2003

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

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| EXAMINER |
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PARK, CHAN S

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2622

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/387,513

Applicant(s)

TOYODA, KIYOSHI

Examiner

CHAN S PARK

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment was received on 10/29/03, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims 13-18 are pending.

Response to Arguments

With respect to lines 10-17 on page 8, the applicant is arguing about something that is not in the amended claims filed on 10/29/03. None of the claims discuss what the capabilities consist of.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 13 objected to because of the following informalities: “,” should be omitted at the end of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 18 objected to because of the following informalities: “an” should be placed instead of “a” in front of image on the first line of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,655,152 and in further view of Ohto et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,864,673.

3. With respect to claim 13, The Ohnishi et al. reference discloses an image communication apparatus (facsimile 24) connected with a receiving facsimile (one of unillustrated output units connected to the server 31) via a server apparatus (server 30) on the network (fig. 21), the image communication apparatus comprising;

A communicator configured to communicate with a first server apparatus (30) and a second server apparatus (31) via the network (col. 27, lines 42-48);

A controller, when the first server apparatus is determined not to store the receiving facsimile unit information, is configured to obtain, from the second server apparatus, the information, and to store the obtained information of the receiving facsimile in the first server apparatus (col. 44, lines 36-57 & col. 46, lines 35-43). The reference teaches that the first server sends information request to other servers to retrieve the information of the destination output units such as printers and facsimiles connected to the latter servers.

It should be noted that the Examiner use fig. 21 to provide a better description of the Ohnishi et al. twelfth embodiment.

According to fig. 21, a bidirectional communication arrow is shown between the server 30 and the facsimile 24. Although the detailed description of the embodiment does not explicitly disclose a communicator in the facsimile 24, it is inherent that an I/O

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port device or a communicator is included for data transmission between the two devices.

However, the Ohnishi et al. reference does not disclose expressly if the network can be the Internet and if the information of the output unit includes the capabilities regarding facsimile data that the receiving facsimile can receive.

Examiner takes Official Notice that the facsimile data transmission over Internet is well known in the art.

Furthermore, the Ohto et al. reference, on the other hand, discloses a plurality of terminal devices including facsimile for both data and capabilities exchange. Prior to the data transmission, an inquiry about the receiving device's capabilities is first requested and then stored in the sender's terminal device. The capabilities information includes what element data can be outputted by the terminal device (col. 18, lines 1-38). The reference also discloses a local area network for connecting terminal devices in a group and a wide area network for connecting a plurality of groups each having a plurality of terminal devices (col. 14, lines 9-30).

Ohnishi et al. and Ohto et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, which is the network facsimile art.

Since it was Ohnishi et al. object to provide a server to collect information of output units over the network and the reference teaches the data transmission and the information exchange between different servers over network (col. 2, lines 42-45), it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made to combine the Ohto et al. system of inquiring and receiving capabilities of desired output units like facsimiles with the network facsimile of Ohnishi et al.

The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent a futile communication by receiving capability information of a receiving facsimile prior to the transmission.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohnishi et al. with Ohto et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

4. With respect to claim 14, the Ohnishi et al. reference discloses the image communication apparatus wherein the first server apparatus is a local server apparatus in a local area network containing the image communication apparatus, and the second server apparatus is a global server apparatus in a global area network connected with the local area network (fig. 21). According to the invention, the servers 30, 31, and 32 can be read as both a local and global servers since they all communicate with local output units as well as with other servers. It should be noted that the Office read server 30 as a local server apparatus since it controls the local output units (printer 22 and facsimile 24) and server 31 as a global server apparatus in a global network since it communicates with other servers for the information exchange (col. 27, lines 42-49).

Furthermore, the Ohto et al. reference according to fig. 5, discloses terminal devices connected over both a local network (group 520) and a global network (511).

5. With respect to claim 15, the Ohto et al. reference discloses the server that stores the capabilities of the receiving facsimile in association with an e-mail address of the receiving facsimile (col. 15, lines 21-25). The Office took the one of the groups

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(524) as a DNS server, which uses the method of transmitting a fax message in a standard e-mail format.

6. With respect to claim 16, the Ohnishi et al. reference discloses a server apparatus (server 30) connected with a transmitting facsimile (facsimile 24) and a receiving facsimile (one of unillustrated output units connected to the server 31) via the network, the server apparatus comprising a controller configured to obtain the capabilities of the receiving facsimile from another server apparatus that stores the capabilities of the receiving facsimile, when the capabilities of the receiving facsimile are not stored and when the transmitting facsimile inquires regarding the capabilities of the receiving facsimile (col. 44, lines 36-57 & col. 46, lines 35-43). The reference teaches that the first server sends information request to other servers to retrieve the information of the destination output units such as printers and facsimiles connected to the latter servers.

It should be noted that the Examiner use fig. 21 to provide a better description of the Ohnishi et al. twelfth embodiment.

However, the Ohnishi et al. reference does not disclose expressly if the network can be the Internet and if the information of the output unit includes the capabilities regarding facsimile data that the receiving facsimile can receive. Also, it does not disclose expressly if the server has a memory configured to store information regarding the output units.

Examiner takes Official Notice that the facsimile data transmission over Internet is well known in the art.

Furthermore, the Ohto et al. reference, on the other hand, discloses a plurality of terminal devices including facsimile for both data and capabilities exchange. Prior to the data transmission, an inquiry about the receiving device's capabilities is first requested and then stored in the memory (outputable media attribute information storage unit 516) in the sender's terminal device. The capabilities information includes what element data can be outputted by the terminal device (col. 18, lines 1-38). The reference also discloses a local area network for connecting terminal devices in a group and a wide area network for connecting a plurality of groups each having a plurality of terminal devices (col. 14, lines 9-30).

Ohnishi et al. and Ohto et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, which is the network facsimile art.

Since it was Ohnishi et al. object to provide a server to collect information of output units over the network and the reference teaches the data transmission and the information exchange between different servers over network (col. 2, lines 42-45), it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Ohto et al. system of inquiring and storing capabilities of desired output units like facsimiles in a memory with the network facsimile of Ohnishi et al.

The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent a futile communication by receiving capability information of a receiving facsimile prior to the transmission. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohnishi et al. with Ohto et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

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7. With respect to claim 17, the combined reference discloses the server apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the controller obtains the capabilities of the receiving facsimile from a further server apparatus, when the another server apparatus does not store the capabilities of the receiving facsimile (col. 46, lines 35-43). It should be noted that the reference discloses the method of broadcasting the information request. The method, therefore, obtains the capabilities of the receiving facsimile from another server apparatus, when the second server apparatus does not store the capabilities of the receiving facsimile.

8. With respect to claim 18, the Ohnishi reference discloses an information exchanging method for controlling an image communication apparatus (facsimile 24) connected with a first server apparatus (server 30) and a second server apparatus (server 31) via the network (fig. 21), at least one of the first server apparatus and the second server apparatus storing information regarding facsimile data that a receiving facsimile is capable of receiving (col. 44, lines 36-57 & col. 46, lines 35-43), the capability exchanging method comprising;

Obtaining, from the second server apparatus, information regarding facsimile data that the receiving facsimile is capable of receiving;

Storing (updating) the information regarding the information of the receiving facsimile in the first server apparatus, when the first server apparatus is determined not to store the information regarding the information of the receiving facsimile (col. 44, lines 36-57 & col. 46, lines 35-43). The reference teaches that the first server sends

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information request to other servers to retrieve the information of the destination output units such as printers and facsimiles connected to the latter servers.

It should be noted that the Examiner use fig. 21 to provide a better description of the Ohnishi et al. twelfth embodiment.

It should be further noted that it is Ohnishi et al. object to find appropriate and capable facsimile for receiving facsimile data.

However, the Ohnishi et al. reference does not disclose expressly if the network can be the Internet and if the information of the output unit includes the capabilities regarding facsimile data that the receiving facsimile can receive.

Examiner takes Official Notice that the facsimile data transmission over Internet is well known in the art.

Furthermore, the Ohto et al. reference, on the other hand, discloses a plurality of terminal devices including facsimile for both data and capabilities exchange. Prior to the data transmission, an inquiry about the receiving device's capabilities is first requested and then stored in the sender's terminal device. The capabilities information includes what element data can be outputted by the terminal device (col. 18, lines 1-38). The reference also discloses a local area network for connecting terminal devices in a group and a wide are network for connecting a plurality of groups each having a plurality of terminal devices (col. 14, lines 9-30).

Ohnishi et al. and Ohto et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, which is the network facsimile art.

Since it was another Ohnishi et al. object to provide a server to collect information of output units over the network and the reference teaches the data transmission and the information exchange between different servers over network (col. 2, lines 42-45), it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Ohto et al. system of inquiring and receiving capabilities of desired output units like facsimiles with the network facsimile of Ohnishi et al.

The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent a futile communication by receiving capability information of a receiving facsimile prior to the transmission.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohnishi et al. with Ohto et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 17.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,872,845 to Feder discloses a facsimile communication network.

U.S. Patent 5,864,670 to Hayashi et al. discloses a communication network, both in local and global network, system that performs information exchange between terminals.

U.S. Patent 6,515,756 to Mastie et al. discloses a print processing system connected to a server in a network wherein the server finds the best printer for the particular print job.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S PARK whose telephone number is (703) 305-2448. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

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Chan S. Park
November 19, 2003


EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600